

TURN THE KEY. BE IDLE FREE!



BREATHE BETTER

anti-idling campaign

Idling releases pollutants that can harm human health and the environment. Don't be caught idling!

- Limit warm-up idling to 30 seconds, even in cold weather.
- Turn off your engine if you expect to be stopped for more than 30 seconds (except in traffic).
- Avoid drive-through windows (banks, pharmacies and fast-food restaurants). Park and go inside.
- Carpool, walk, bike or take the bus whenever possible.

Opportunities for Schools and Businesses

Partner with Breathe Better (B2) to help reduce idling. Promote air quality awareness with the Air Quality Flag Program. Get started at www.scdhec.gov/b2!



COMMON IDLING MYTHS AND FACTS:

MYTH: Frequent restarting is harder on the engine and wastes more fuel than idling.

FACTS:

- Modern engines require much less fuel at startup than some people think. Idling for just 30 seconds wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Idling is harder on the engine than restarting. Frequent restarting causes only about \$10 worth of wear-and-tear per year, whereas idling leaves fuel residues that damage engine components and cause higher maintenance costs over time.
- Idling uses up to ½ gallon of fuel per hour (although it varies depending on the type and size of the engine). It may not seem like much, but idling for a few minutes every day can cost you several dollars per week.

MYTH: Engines need to warm up by idling, especially in cold weather.

FACT: Modern vehicles do not need warming-up, except in sub-zero temperatures. Idling in cold weather can actually be harder on the engine. The best way to warm up the engine is by driving slowly for the first few minutes.



SPARE THE AIR
south carolina

